

My dear friend

concerning the most Valuable MS Itinerary History
and Antient MS Map of Richard of Westminster

It was a great pleasure to me, to hear from you. I have been for a good while in expectation of seeing you in Town. my old friends & acquaintance here, are partly all gone off. & very little pains do I take, to renew & make fresh ones. I go to no public meetings. frequent not the court, & levees of Lords, Bishops &c. for at this time of day, I have no ambition: seek only to render the remnant of life agreeable, & entertaining. & the chief entertainment I have is that of Royal Society.

I am not unmindful of my promise; & have begun to transcribe my minutes taken there memoriter, which I design as a present to your Society.

I am a little hindered therein at present, by a new avocation. by the correspondence I had in Denmark 2 years ago. I learnt, that there was a MS of our British affairs of considerable value, as my friend thought: call'd Richard of Westminster. I then took no notice of it, as being out of the world; quite secluded from any literary conversation at Stamford. but since I came to London, I thought it worth while to inquire further into it: & my friend has sent it to me.

I find it to be the greatest curiosity, which any age has discovered, since the revival of learning among us. he calls it commentariolum de situ Britannice & stationum quas Romani in ea insula edificaverunt.

he gives us an exact, full, & methodical chorography of the whole island, in the Roman times: the names & seats of the different nations: their cities, rivers, promontories, mountains: bays &c.

he gives us an Itinerarium Britanniarum omnium.

This contains no less than XIX Itin's like that we call Antoninus's Itinerary; crossing the island all manner of ways; names of Stations & distances of miles. it is not the same as Antoninus's: but very different, & fuller by far: & in many places corrects it, & explains a hundred difficultys, theron: before now unfurmountable.

he gives us above a hundred names of places in Roman Brittain: which we know nothing of, till now. he takes in Scotland, as far as Inverness, into the Roman jurisdiction; & recites names of very many Roman towns there, beyond the farther vallum, of which we were quite ignorant.

the famous Itineron of Ptolomy, or castra alata the last bound of Roman power; till now, generally placed at Edinburgh; he removes far away north, to Inverness, upon the river Varar.

to add to all this, he gives us a most curious & most invaluable map of Brittania faciei Romanae, as he styles it, conformable to his descriptions.

all this is in his first book. in the second, he has drawn up an excellent chronological history of Brittain: the emperors, generals, legates, propretors that made expeditions here. tells us very many particular memoirs, which are absolutely new to us. the whole manuscript is very short; but full of matter: wrote in an elegant, latin style: with judgment, & order. the work was unknown to us: compiled out of antient manuscripts of Roman times, or soon after; which are quite lost to us. & by my coming to London, I have fortunately redeemed it, from obscurity; & probably from ruin.

our fr. Mr. Hunter is now marry'd again to Miss —
Ballouen. That affair of the Stire drain, I hope, will
turn out in favor of him. for that is the natural & origi-
nal drain of Crowland. & its plain was so, in Saxon
times; from whence it was call'd Stire drain: dividing
the countrys. at that time, your river was but a small
brook. As to the tower of ^{St. Michael's} ~~St. Michael's~~ ^{in Amst} ~~St. Michael's~~ ^{from John Britain's Collection}

I have been at Glasbury torr, & taken a drawing
of it. tis the tower or steeple of the church of St. Mich-
ael; which church is pull'd down. the last abbot White-
ing was hang'd upon it. whereof Capt. Johnson sent a Drawing down stream & so.

The work monumens de la monarchie françoise was
published by father Montfaucon. very many plates
of old tombs, images, pictures &c. the famous tapis-
made by Wm conquerors queen Maud, of the con-
querors expedition into England: among them.

those plates our book sellers have got; & are
going to reprint them, with some Hackney explanations
of their own. for which I have subscribed by Mr. Thos. Norton & Mr. W. J. J. J.

I for my part, enjoy as much solitude here, as I
did in the country: with this difference, that here, tis volun-
tary: there, forced. I divert ~~the~~ my self in study & com-
pany, by turns. which is the great advantage here to be
had. in Stamford, it was dull, & altogether solitude.

Pray present our best respects to madam Toluson &
all your good family; & to all the gentlemen of your Society,
& I am

Your affectionate humble servt.
W. Stukely

Lond. 15 apr. 1749.

Hereafter follows the Substance of my Answer to this Learned & Curious Correspondent —
The Rev. Dr. Stukely Rector of St. George's Rectory square Oxford the 10th 1749
Dated & Sent by the next Post Viz 18 April 1749. the 4th & 5th paragraphs requiring dispute

Vos in cuius list of Latin Historians Says Richard of Chichester or Fitzreceden (as
 Somerville called) ab 1340 wrote several historical Treatises about Britaine
 and that he was a Benedictine Monk of Westm. - 2^o Ed. pag 532.
 D. Jacobi in Catalog of Public or University Libr Cambr Catal 1778 p. 168.
 N^o 2304. [124.] Summa Richardi in fine libri habent haec Verba Reges vero Saxonum
 G. Mahmsbrunensis et H. Huntigtonensis, Anos de Regibus Britonum laudat, tunc hanc aut librum
 Britonum sermonem quem W. al. Oxenford Archidiaconus Britonum ad. xit. quendam de Historia Eboracensis editum
 in honorem de Principum Romanorum in latinum transire curavit. et Archidiaconus Nicholam in suis
 English Libr. Library folio Edition p. 63 from Hippito [folio 438.] Given this
 high

21

To Maurice Johnson Esq.
 Spalding
 Lincolnshire

15/10

High Encomium of Charade of Richard of Chichester a Monk of Westm.
 1348. That he traveled of some of the libraries of England, You of his Collections
 Thomas Comptons a Notable History of this Kingdom from the Conquering of the Saxons
 down to his own time - But by the former Citation from D. Jacobi & this it appears
 He treated too much higher time. I requested of my Good friend Dr. a Sketch
 of some of this Antient Map of Brittain as contained in Lincolnshire &
 Caude & shew it to Eboracum or adjacent parts of the Coast, both this
 & my Aud are transcribed into my Nicholson's English Libr. in the Interleaving
 before at the end of the 1st Part of my Libr. in Newstead &c.